

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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FOR SCIATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, UR

SUBJ: SPACE AGREEMENT: FUNDING OF VISITS

REF: MOSCOW 0126

NASA WOULD APPRECIATE SCIATT MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS TO VERESHCHETIN IN RESPONSE TO HIS JANUARY 3 REPRESENTATIONS CONCERNING FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR US AND SOVIET SPECIALISTS UNDER SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

1. NASA EXPECTS TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT ESSENTIALS OF FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN DRAFT VERESHCHETIN MEMORANDUM. THESE ARRANGEMENTS, HOWEVER, REPRESENT MAJOR DEPARTURE FROM PRACTICE FOLLOWED WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, AND NECESSARY INTERNAL COORDINATION AND PLANNING IS STILL IN PROCESS. WHILE NASA EXPECTS TO REPLY SHORTLY, THERE IS NO PROSPECT FOR COMPLETING NASA/ACADEMY UNDERSTANDING ON FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS BEFORE ASTP MEETINGS SCHEDULE TO BEGIN IN HOUSTON JANUARY 14.

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2. THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY WHATEVER FOR THE HOUSTON TRIP. INDEED, THE SOVIET SIDE HAS RECOGNIZED THAT ITS PROBLEMS ARISE ONLY IN CITIES OTHER THAN HOUSTON. MORE SPECIFICALLY, NASA WILL PROVIDE SOVIET PARTICIPANTS AT JANUARY ASTP MEETINGS WITH DOLS 25.00 PER DIEM. THIS IS ESTABLISHED RATE FOR US GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL TRAVELLING IN UNITED STATES. SINCE CURRENT HOTEL RATE OBTAINED IN HOUSTON FOR SOVIET PARTICIPANTS IS DOLS 13.91, THEY WILL HAVE DOLS 11.09 AVAILABLE FOR MEALS, WHICH IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD BE AMPLE AND, INCIDENTALLY, MORE THAN MEETS VERESHCHETIN'S OBJECTIVE. KISSINGER

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